



ARREST AND TRIAL

Life & Ministry of Jesus • U8#4 1st-3rd Grade • Mar.17, 2024

Concept

Jesus trusted himself to God and showed strength, humility and love during unfair circumstances.

Goal

Students will learn details of Jesus' unfair arrest and trial and His deliberate response. They will be encouraged to respond with humility and love when faced with unfair circumstances.

Passage

Matthew 26:45-27:31; Luke 23:1-12; 1 John 2:2; John 1:12

Key Verse: "When they made fun of him, he did not fight back; when he suffered, he did not threaten to get even. Instead, he left his life in the hands of God who always judges fairly." 1 Peter 2:23 (paraphrase)

Planning Ahead

Lesson Supplies	Craft Supplies
<p>Activity Station:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>Through the Eyes of Jesus, Mack Thomas</i> <p>Introduction:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Red dot stickers, 1/student & teacher Dark blue, green or orange dot stickers, ½ sheet/student 	<p>Activity Station:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> "It Wasn't Fair!" cardstock cover, 1/student Blank cardstock back cover, 1/student Printed key verse page, 1/student "Jesus' Arrest & Trials" handout, 1/student "Jewish Laws" handout, 1/student "Jesus' Response" handout, 1/student Markers Stamps & stamp pads Various shaped punches Construction paper Hole punches Yarn

*TEACHERS PLEASE NOTE

For clarity, the italicized areas in the Planning Ahead section indicate supplies that are in—and should be returned to—your classroom SHARED SUPPLY bag.

Background Information/Teacher Helps

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A mob, sent by religious leaders to lynch Jesus, was accompanied by “Jewish police,” officers from the chief priests and Pharisees who were not Roman military men, but Mafia-type thugs who imposed the will of the religious leaders on the people. Judas led the mob and identified Jesus with his betrayal kiss. In response to their demand to see Jesus of Nazareth, Jesus quietly replied, “I am He.” I AM THAT I AM. In this way, God had simply, yet profoundly, always identified Himself. The intruders fell back at His words, flattened by the presence and power and person of the omnipotent God. Then the armed attackers got up and roughly grabbed Jesus as they bound His wrists with strong ropes.

“It is an incredible scene of horror and outrage. Villains cursing and swearing with obscene oaths against One who had done no crime, committed no offense. Ruffians abusing with their rough cruel hands One whose hands had brought only blessing. Chafing, cutting cords and clanging chains now manacled One who had come to set men free. Abuse, belligerence, and vicious vengeance were heaped on One who had brought healing, help, and hope to others in despair.”[1]

The long night of trials had begun. Jesus was first taken to the high priest’s home, where the Sanhedrin had gathered to try Him illegally at night. They wanted Jesus to die, but their witnesses brought inconsistent, false testimony against Jesus. Finally the high priest demanded that Jesus tell them if He was the Son of God. When Jesus confirmed this statement, they accused Him of blasphemy, which was punishable by death according to Old Testament law. In spite of all the confusion, false charges, and inhumane treatment, Jesus stood silent, strong and serene. He was the only one who stayed calm and self-controlled in the midst of all the agitation. He was always in control, and He deliberately chose to die for the sins of mankind. Even in death He would remain in control. He knew His death would ultimately set men free, and through these intensely unfair circumstances, God would bring life and light and love. Little did the religious leaders know that Jesus had chosen of His own free will to be brought to trial. “It was not He who in very truth would be tried that awful day. It was mankind who stood on trial before the King of Kings. He was not at the mercy of men, except as He permitted Himself to be. They were at His mercy, partaking of it in a peculiar way they could not understand.”[2]

[1]Keller, W. Phillip, Rabboni, Old Tappan, New Jersey: Fleming H. Revell Company, p. 246.

[2]Ibid, p. 246.

Set Up

Choose one teacher to end up with no red dots for Learning Activity #1. As students arrive, put a red dot sticker on each of their backs.

Incorporation Lg. Group

Activity Stations:

- **Craft – “It Wasn’t Fair!” book**
 - **Instructions:** Give each student a cardstock “It Wasn’t Fair!” for the front cover and a blank piece of cardstock for the back cover, a “Jewish Laws” page, a “Jesus’ Arrest & Trial” page, a key verse page and “Jesus’ Response” page. Color and decorate cover as desired. Put the pages in the order of their page numbers. Tie yarn through pages to make a book.
- **Story – “Lies,” page 50 of Through the Eyes of Jesus**

Introduction Lg. Group

Game – A Sticky Situation

Instructions: Distribute red stickers to teachers and other colored stickers to the rest of the class. Tell students that whoever has the fewest stickers on their back wins. Once a sticker is placed on their back, it can't be removed. Teachers and students put stickers on each others' backs within a specific time limit (1-2 minutes or until everyone but the predetermined teacher has a red sticker on their back. Make sure every child has a red dot.). Call time; have kids pair off to count the dots on each other. Ask who has the fewest number of dots. Then announce that the person who doesn't have a red dot on their back wins. The predetermined teacher wins. Students will probably think this is unfair- exactly what we want them to think.

Debrief: How did you feel when <<teacher>> announced the winner and you found the rules had been changed? How did you respond? Who thinks this game was unfair? I sure do. This is a very minor example of what Jesus experienced at His trial. And yet, “When they made fun of him, he did not fight back; when he suffered, he did not threaten to get even. Instead, he left his life in the hands of God who always judges fairly” (1 Peter 2:23).

Transition

The game you just played was really unfair, wasn't it? It stinks when we have to deal with unfair circumstances! Let's join the other classes for a skit.

Learning Activity#1 Lg. Group

Skit – “Try Your Luck” skit presented by the Drama Team

Rationale: To remember content of the lesson through an experience/dramatic play/activity

Let's begin our lesson.

Carl/Carlie didn't like to be treated unfairly, and neither do we. In fact, we get pretty mad when people treat us unfairly. We like to let others know we have rights! 1 Peter 2:23 is our key verse. Peter wrote this about Jesus. "When they made fun of him, he did not fight back; when he suffered, he did not threaten to get even. Instead, he left his life in the hands of God who always judges fairly." This tells us that when Jesus was mocked, beaten and rejected He didn't get even or threaten His enemies. Instead, He turned to God and trusted God to take care of Him and to judge those who were wrong.

Arrest of Jesus

Let's read Matthew 26:45-47. Review what is read—notice WHO betrayed Jesus (one of the disciples!)

Let's read Matthew 26:48-50. Jesus cooperated with the arrest! Jesus allowed Himself to be arrested knowing that as a part of God's will and plan, He would be sentenced to death.

Jesus and Caiaphas

Jesus was first taken to Caiaphas. As the presiding judge of the Jewish court, called the Sanhedrin, Caiaphas was required by law to take an oath to maintain justice and fairness in the court. But Caiaphas showed complete disregard for Jewish law and used his position for his own power and wealth. Caiaphas was hateful and wicked. He hated Jesus and everything that Jesus stood for.

Follow along as I read Matthew 26:57-68. What was the crime for which the Sanhedrin convicted Jesus? (It was blasphemy—He claimed to be God.) When He was silent they made up charges against Him. And when He told them the truth they accused Him of blasphemy and sentenced Him to die. "When they made fun of him, he did not fight back; when he suffered, he did not threaten to get even. Instead, he left his life in the hands of God who always judges fairly" (1 Peter 2:23).

Jesus and Pilate

Turn to Luke 23. At daybreak the Jews took Jesus from the Jewish court to be sentenced by Pilate. Pilate was the Roman governor and the only ruler who had the authority to put someone to death. However, blasphemy against God would not be an offense that would matter to the Romans. Follow along as I read verses 1-7. What was the crime the religious leaders accused Jesus of before Pilate? So, do you see what they did? (Discuss)

Jesus and Herod

In Luke 23 it says that Herod was very selfish and thought only about what he wanted. Herod did not care about justice; he only wanted to see a miracle. But when Jesus stood silent, Herod ridiculed and mocked Jesus and sent Him back to Pilate.

Jesus, Pilate and the Crowds

Pilate still didn't believe Jesus was guilty of any crime. But he was afraid that the Jewish leaders might riot or cause trouble for him if he didn't sentence Jesus to death. Pilate tried to convince the Jews to let Jesus go since, in his own words, "he has done nothing to deserve death" (Luke 23:15). Follow along in Luke 23:18-25.

Jesus Condemned to Die

(Describe Jesus awaiting death, crown of thorns, mocked, etc.), yet He knew this was the purpose for coming to earth.

Jesus' purpose was to give His life to pay for our sins and the sins of the whole world (1 John 2:2). He died on the cross for your sins and mine, yet he did nothing to deserve death. If you want to have your sins forgiven so you can have a relationship with God all you have to do is ask God to forgive your sins by letting Jesus' death on the cross pay for them. When you tell God you want to be forgiven and part of His family, God will forgive your sins and you will become His child (John 1:12). This is the most important decision you will ever make. For those of you who have made this decision, remember our key verse. (1 Peter 2:23).

Jesus' Response

Do you think it was easy for Jesus to act the way He did? No. (Discuss Jesus' authority and how he set that aside to come to earth to do what he did) Can you imagine loving someone who rejects you? And even more, can you imagine loving that person so much that you are willing to die for him or her? That's exactly what Jesus did! We are born into this world as His enemies and while we were His enemies, He died for us. Why was Jesus able to respond the way He did? Jesus saw the bigger picture and was willing to sacrifice to accomplish a greater goal. He trusted God who loved Him and would assure that justice was done. What about you? Is it easy to respond in loving ways to people who treat you unfairly? It is not only difficult—it is impossible. We can't do it.

Let's quickly get into small groups and discuss how this applies to us. Bring the books you made when you came in or grab a "Jesus' Response" page

Learning Activity# 2 Sm. Groups

Our Response

What are some of the ways you respond in unfair circumstances? Be honest! Think about the way you responded in the silly game we played. According to Jesus' example, was your response appropriate? The outcome of that game didn't even matter and yet it seemed like it was the end of the world for some of you!

What would you do if...?

Let's think about some unfair situations you could face. What would be your automatic response? If you were to respond as Christ, how would that look?

1. You don't have anyone to help you on a big assignment at home. The teacher says you can't bring it in late—you just get a zero. You think this is unfair because you overheard her tell the person before you in line that they could bring in their project the next day.
2. Your mom asks you to make sure you get your normal chores done by a certain time and you do, but your brother doesn't get his jobs done on time. Your mom tells you to do your brother's job, too, before you go to your friend's house, since your brother is at his friend's house. This is totally unfair.

Jesus gives us the best example for responding to unfair situations. We see how He responded in the face of completely unfair circumstances. Let's look at what He did and did not do. **Look at the "Jesus' Response" page.**

Mission Prayer: Talk about and pray for Oasis Giving campaign.

Let's pray and ask God for the attitude that Jesus had and for the strength, courage and love to go through unfair situations.

Extension

Read "Lies," page fifty of Through the Eyes of Jesus.

Try Your Luck

Concept: This skit portrays a game show where the contestants try for a prize. Unfortunately, the host is constantly changing the rules of the game. The contestant responds as best he/she can yet this doesn't compare to the way Christ responded to His unjust trials.

Scripture: 1 Peter 2:23

Cast:

- Happy Howard (host) dressed nicely
- Stage assistant Stan with blindfold hanging out of pocket like handkerchief
- Carl/Carlie (contestant)

Props:

- Beanbags, Blindfold, Basket, Poster sign – "Try Your Luck"

Stage assistant brings up lights with Happy Howard standing in front of the audience.

Howard: *(addressing the audience)* Welcome everyone to "Try Your Luck." The only game show to offer \$1 million to every winner, guaranteed. I'm Happy Howard because I just love giving money to people. As you know, every week we draw a name from our pool and give them twenty-four hours to make it to our studio here in sunny Tallulah, Louisiana, to play the game for 1 million dollars. While we wait for our contestant to arrive, who'd like to win \$50?

Pick an audience member who raises their hand.

You'll do nicely. What's your name? OK <<name>>, for \$50 name the capital of Ohio... (Wait for the person to name the capital then add the rest of the question.) ...and the exact population, unemployment rate, exact area and longitude, latitude and altitude (sarcastically). Can't answer? Too bad. Better luck next time. Heh, heh, heh.

Stan: Howard, the contestant is here.

Howard: Excellent, show him/her in.

Stage assistant Stan shows Carl/Carlie in and stands him/her beside Howard.

Howard: And how are you today, Carl/Carlie?

Carlie: *(puffing)* I'm out of breath. I had to come all the way from Barrow, Alaska and I'm kind of out of breath.

Howard: *(not really caring)* How nice. Anyway, are you ready to "Try Your Luck" for \$1 million?

Carlie: You bet!

Howard: Stan, bring out the beanbags.

Stan brings out the beanbags and basket and sets them on the stage. Stan stays on the stage off to the side.

Howard: Okay, Carl/ie, to win the \$1 million buckerininos, all you have to do is throw a beanbag into the basket in less than one minute. *(Gives the beanbags to Carl/Carlie)*

Carl/ie: No problem, I'm state champ beanbag thrower. *(proceeds to throw a bag into the basket)*

Howard: *(without missing a beat)* ...from across the room. Go ahead Stan, take the basket to the other side of the room.

Stan moves to the other side of the room and holds the basket. Stan may need to help by moving the basket to catch the beanbag.

Carl/ie: Still no problem. *(Throws the bag)*

Howard: *(without missing a beat)* ...while wearing a blindfold. Stan.

Stan brings the blindfold from across the room and gives it to Howard and returns to the place where he was standing. Howard proceeds to tie the blindfold on Carl/Carlie.

Carl/ie: All right, here I go!

As Carl/Carlie winds up, Howard motions to Stan to move to a different place in the room. Carl/Carlie misses by a mile.

Howard: *(in a grandiose manner)* Oh, we're so sorry but you missed the basket and the \$1 million. What do you think, Stan?

Stan: Missed it by a mile!

Carl/ie: *(who has already taken off the blindfold while Howard was talking and notices Stan has moved from where he was standing)* What are you talking about? Stan moved. This isn't fair.

Howard: Fair is what I decide. It's my show, after all. Stan, please give Carl/Carlie the pencil as a consolation prize and show him/her out. Good-bye, Carl/Carlie. Don't let the door hit you on the rear-end on the way back to Alaska. *(to audience)* Well, that's all the time we have this week. Tune in next week to see the next sucker, oops, I mean contestant, try their luck for \$1 million on "Try Your Luck." Bye

Lights Out – Exit